

# **Te Ripoata Tiamana O Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Hakihea 2024**

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Tena Koutou katoa, nga raurangatira ma o te rohe!

He mihi aroha, he mihi tautoko , he mihi mahana ki tenei wa whakahirahira!

Since our last Te Roopu Ahi Kaa Hui, our country has seen the coming together of whanau whanui, Hapu, Iwi, Tangata Tiriti, Indigenous people from all across the motu take part in the “Toitu Te Tiriti” Hiko that started up North and culminated in the delivering of a petition that was signed by over 290,000 people to our youngest Maori MP, Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke. To date this has been the greatest show of unity that this country has ever witnessed around one kaupapa, being the Treaty Principals Bill being put forward by ACT MP David Seymour.

As the Chair of Te Roopu Ahi Kaa , one of the things that we have been asked to comment on is our stance on the Treaty Principals Bill. I have a very clear personal view on this issue having already signed the petition. I would like to acknowledge the many people across the rohe who have come out clearly in support of opposing the Bill going past the first reading and am sure we will be having a robust discussion around what our Marae, Runanga, Hapu and Iwi are advocating.

Other kaupapa on the agenda include the consideration of applications to the Marae Development Fund and I wish to thank people for putting these forward.

We have a number of business-as-usual items on the Agenda, and I also want to acknowledge the new Mana Whenua Kaimahi who will be attending for the very first time today.

As always, I would like to acknowledge the staff for the work they do on behalf of this Komiti and would also like to mention and thank those Te Roopu Ahi Kaa delegates that managed to get over to the Local Water Done Well workshop that was held over in Papaioea in November.

I would also like to thank Mayor Andy and our CE Kevin Ross for taking the time to go out and meet directly with Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa around the Local Water Done Well kaupapa and the impacts on our council and also for coming through to Taihape to present this very complicated kaupapa out again to Iwi representatives from Ngati Tamakopiri, Ngai Te Ohuake , Ngati Whitikaupeka and Ngati Hauti. There is much to get your head around in this space and the impacts and interest by rate payers will not be fully realised until a water bill comes through a person’s mailbox. Watch this space people its going to be an interesting one!

Lastly, a couple of other things I’d like to mention is the financial commitment that has been mooted to the tune of \$10 million dollars for Ratana Pa and also acknowledge the work going on with Manawa Energy for the “Huriwaka wind Farm”, fast-track project in our rohe. Both probable important injections of putea into our local economy however each with their own sets of issues and considerations to be made and worked through.

**He Whakatauaki!**

**Toitu Te Tiriti!**

Honour the Treaty

**Nga mihi**

**Piki te Ora Hiroa**

**Tiamana**